

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T STATE 015381

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS, IR

SUBJECT: DOD REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INSTALLATIONS IN IRAN

1. SECRETARY BROWN HAS REQUESTED STATE DEPARTMENT TO UNDERTAKE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOI FOR AUTHORITY TO CONSTRUCT A HIGH FREQUENCY AERONAUTICAL RADIO STATION WHICH WOULD COMBINE THREE PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS: MYSTIC STAR (PRESIDENTIAL AND HIGH-LEVEL COMMUNICATIONS); FLIGHT FOLLOWING/COMMAND AND CONTROL FOR MILITARY FLIGHTS EASTWARD (PRIMARILY OF BENEFIT TO MAC); AND GIANT TALK (LINK TO SAC).

2. DOD HAS ALSO AGAIN URGED US TO APPROVE GEODSS AND SEEK GOI APPROVAL. DOD BRIEFING TEAM INFORMED US THAT SOLAR OBSERVATORY HAS BEEN LOCATED IN GREECE; IRANIAN LOCATION WILL NOT BE NEEDED.

3. BASIC ARGUMENT FOR HF STATION IN IRAN IS THAT, WITH CLOSURE OF ASMARA, WE CURRENTLY HAVE NO HF CAPABILITY FROM EASTERN IRAN TO EASTERN INDIA WHERE CLARK FIELD STATION CAN

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BE HEARD. THEREFORE, PRESIDENT OR OTHER HIGH OFFICIALS ARE INADEQUATELY SERVICED UNLESS COSTLY TEMPORARY COMMUNICATIONS ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE. IRAN IS LITERALLY ONLY TERRITORY FROM WHICH ENTIRE CURRENT "DEAD-ZONE" CAN BE COVERED.

4. ACCORDING TO DOD BRIEFING, THE TRANSMITTER SITE (SPACE FOR 16 ANTENNAS) WOULD REQUIRE 150 ACRES; THE RECEIVER

SITE/COMMUNICATIONS RELAY SITE (TO BE LOCATED ROUGHLY TEN MILES FROM TRANSMITTER SITE) NEEDS 50 ACRES. THE BEST LOCATION IS IN OR NEAR TEHRAN; A SITE ELSEWHERE IN COUNTRY WOULD REQUIRE MICROWAVE LINK TO TEHRAN. APPROXIMATELY 80 PERSONNEL, MANY OF WHOM COULD BE CIVILIAN CONTRACTORS, WOULD MAN THE TRANSMITTER AND RECEIVER SITES. IF GOI AUTHORIZED, FUNDING WOULD BE SOUGHT IN 1980-81, INSTALLATION WOULD TAKE PLACE 1982-83 AND INSTALLATION WOULD BE FULLY OPERATIONAL IN 1983.

5. AT CURRENT TIME GEODSS STATIONS HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED IN KOREA AND MOROCCO TO SUPPLEMENT STATIONS ON US TERRITORY. THERE WILL BE AN IMPORTANT COVERAGE GAP IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN WHICH WE COULD LOSE SIGHT OF SATELLITES.

6. GEODSS SITE CANNOT BE NEAR LARGE CITY BECAUSE OF REFLECTED LIGHT AND AREA MUST BE FREE OF SMOG. U.S. AIR FORCE, AS YOU KNOW, WOULD LIKE TO CARRY OUT SITE SURVEY IN A COUPLE OF PLACES IN IRAN. BAM AREA TENTATIVELY LOOKS GOOD. AS IN CASE OF RADIO SITES, IRAN IDEALLY LOCATED TO PERMIT COVERAGE OF DEAD-ZONES WITH DESIRED OVERLAP OF ADJOINING SECTORS.

7. GEODSS WOULD REQUIRE ABOUT 10,000 SQUARE FEET OF LAND. PERSONNEL WOULD BE 30-50 WHO, WITH EXCEPTION OF 5-6 "BLUE SUITERS", WOULD BE CIVILIAN CONTRACTORS. AIR FORCE
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REQUIRES APPROVAL BY DECEMBER 1978 FOR FISCAL YEAR 1980. BUDGET SUBMISSION.

8. DOD IS WILLING TO WORK CLOSELY WITH GOI SO THAT BOTH FACILITIES COULD HAVE JOINT FEATURES. FOR EXAMPLE, GOI NEEDS IMPROVED HF CAPABILITY AND THIS COULD BE WORKED INTO THE PROPOSED SITE.

9. WE ARE INFORMING SECRETARY BROWN THAT, BEFORE WE CAN MAKE JUDGMENTS ON THESE MATTERS, YOUR VIEWS ARE REQUIRED. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSESSMENT SUCH QUESTIONS AS: LIKELY REACTION OF SHAH TO THESE TWO REQUESTS (KEEPING IN MIND, OF COURSE, YOUR CURRENT POSITION ON MAROON ARCHER); WHAT ARE LIABILITIES OF PLACING THESE FACILITIES IN IRAN --

POLITICAL, SECURITY, ETC. WE ARE FULLY COGNIZANT OF TECHNICAL MERITS OF PLACING FACILITIES IN IRAN, BUT DO YOU SEE OTHER ADVANTAGES FROM BROADER FOREIGN POLICY

PERSPECIIVES; ON ASSUMPTION (WHICH COULD PROVE INCORRECT) THAT SHAH DOES NOT WANT MAJOR INCREASES IN US PRESENCE BUT, IN SPIRIT OF OUR CLOSE RELATIONSHIP, WOULD BE WILLING

TO GO ALONG ON ONE OR TWO, WHICH DO YOU BELIEVE HE WOULD
PREFER, ETC. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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